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Tuesday, September 7, 1976 C1

THE WASHINGTON POST

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

Behind John F. Kennedy's Murder

Mafia mobster John Roselli may have taken the secret of the John F. Kennedy assassination with him to his death. He was brutally murdered a few weeks ago, his hacked-up body stuffed into an oil drum and dumped into Miami's Biscayne Bay.

Before he died, Roselli hinted to associates that he knew who had arranged President Kennedy's murder. It was the same conspirators, he suggested, whom he had recruited earlier to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

By Roselli's cryptic account, Castro learned the identity of the underworld contacts in Havana who had been trying to knock him off. He believed, not altogether without basis, that President Kennedy was behind the plot.

The Cuban leader, as the supreme irony, decided to turn the tables and use the same crowd to arrange Kennedy's assassination, according to Roselli's scenario. To save their skins, the plotters lined up Lee Harvey Oswald to pull the trigger.

Roselli could never be pinned down on names or details. It was also difficult to assess whether he knew what he was talking about or whether he merely described what he thought might have happened. Certainly there is no real evidence to support Roselli's story. But there are enough curious circumstances to justify telling it. Here are the fascinating highlights.

The ruggedly handsome Roselli, a flamboyant mobster with underworld contacts in Havana, was recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency in 1960 to assassinate Castro. He had no authority, however, over the underworld elements in Havana.

They were under the loose control of Florida's Mafia chieftan, Santos Trafficante. His gambling enterprises in Havana had been closed down by Castro after the 1959 revolution. In fact, Trafficante had been lodged for a period in a Cuban jail, an indignity that didn't endear Castro to him.

After Trafficante made it back to his Florida haunts, he left part of his organization behind in Havana. Some of his henchmen even managed to develop contacts in Castro's inner circle. These were the people Roselli wanted to use to knock off Castro.

But Roselli didn't have the stature inside the Mafia to make the necessary arrangements with Trafficante. So Roselli called in his patron, the Chicago godfather Sam (Momo) Giancana, to deal with Trafficante.

As Roselli's associates tell it, he persuaded Giancana that it would be to their advantage to win the good will of the CIA. Convinced, Giancana flew down to Florida to make the preliminary arrangements.

Once Giancana and Trafficante set it up, Roselli used the Havana underworld to plot Castro's demise. At first, they tried to plant poison pills, supplied by the CIA, in Castro's food. The pills would have made it appear that he died of natural causes. When this failed, snipers were dispatched to a Havana rooftop. They were caught.

The word reached Roselli that some of the plotters had been tortured and that Castro had learned about the whole operation.

The CIA called off the Roselli operation in March, 1963, but recruited a Castro associate, Rolando Cubela, to murder Castro.

In an impromptu, three-hour interview with Associated Press reporter Daniel Harker, Castro indicated that he knew about the attempts on his life and warned that U.S. leaders also might not be safe. That was Sept. 7, 1963.

According to Roselli, Castro enlisted the same underworld elements whom he had caught plotting against him. They supposedly were Cubans from the old Trafficante organization. Working with Cuban intelligence, they allegedly lined up an ex-Marine sharpshooter, Lee Harvey Oswald, who had been active in the pro-Castro movement.

According to Roselli's version, Oswald may have shot Kennedy or may have acted as a decoy while others ambushed him from closer range. When Oswald was picked up, Roselli suggested, the underworld conspirators feared he would crack and disclose information that might lead to them. This almost certainly would have brought a massive U.S. crackdown on the Mafia.

So Jack Ruby was ordered to eliminate Oswald, making it appear as an act of reprisal against the President's killer. At least this is how Roselli explained the tragedy in Dallas.

Several key CIA officials believed that Castro was behind the Kennedy assassination.

It has also been established that Jack Ruby, indeed, had been in Cuba and had connections in the Havana underworld. One CIA cable, dated Nov. 28, 1963, reported that "an American gangster type named Ruby" had visited Trafficante in his Cuban prison.

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9 September 1976

The Washington Post

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

CIA Withheld Data in JFK Probe

After President John F. Kennedy was struck down on Nov. 22, 1963, the Central Intelligence Agency received evidence suggesting that Cuban Premier Fidel Castro arranged the assassination in retaliation for attempts on his life.

Yet sources privy to the secret discussions at the highest levels of the CIA during those hectic days now tell us that the CIA deliberately withheld the evidence from the Warren Commission investigating Kennedy's death.

Our sources cite two reasons for holding back this evidence. One was a resolve to cover up the secret that the CIA had enlisted Mafia mobsters to kill Castro.

There also was a legitimate concern that the Castro revelations might inflame the American people, whose grief could have turned into a terrible wrath that might have precipitated some rash action.

Only a few key people knew about the CIA plot to assassinate Castro. One was Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, who was his brother's personal watchdog over the CIA. It has now been established that Robert Kennedy was briefed on May 7, 1962, about the attempt to use underworld killers to knock off Castro.

Two days later, Robert Kennedy cautioned the CIA not to go ahead with the assassination without consulting him. Since Robert Kennedy rode herd on the CIA, it must be assumed that he was kept advised of subsequent assassination attempts. However, there is no documentary evidence of this.

Records now available show that Robert Kennedy informed FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover of the plot on May 10, 1962. Yet neither Kennedy nor Hoover later divulged this important information to the Warren Commission.

Of course, various CIA officials also knew about the assassination scheme. Not the least of them was the late CIA chief Allen W. Dulles, who approved the original plan. He later served on the Warren Commission, yet he sat silently throughout the investigation without mentioning the Cuban angle.

Within hours of President Kennedy's death, the U.S. embassy cabled information from Mexico City suggesting that the Cubans may have been behind the assassination. Our sources say that the CIA developed similar information in Washington.

The first person to reach Robert Kennedy's side after the shooting was CIA Director John A. McCone, who remained alone with the Attorney General at his McLean, Va., home for nearly three hours.

McCone swore to us that Castro's name was never mentioned during the three hours. But CIA records show that the next day McCone not only mentioned Castro to the new President, Lyndon B. Johnson, but briefed him on the information from Mexico City.

Yet no one brought the Cuban connection to the attention of the Warren Commission. We were the first to get word of the anti-Castro plot to Chief Justice Earl Warren, the commission chairman, four years later.

We are now free to reveal our role in the drama. Two of our confidential sources, CIA agent William Harvey and mobster John Rosselli, are dead. A third source, attorney Edward P. Morgan, has waived the confidentiality we had promised him.

Morgan told us in January, 1967, about the CIA-Mafia assassination plot against Castro. He raised the possibility that the plot could have backfired against President Kennedy. There were suspicious circumstances, he pointed out, indicating that Castro may have learned of the attempts on his life and may have retaliated against Kennedy.

Morgan refused to identify his sources because it would have violated the attorney-client privilege. But he was an attorney of such stature that we didn't doubt his word. He had been chief inspector of the FBI. He had directed the historic congressional investigation of the Pearl Harbor bombing. Later, he ran the investigation into the excesses of the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

We got Morgan's permission, to write a cautious story. We confirmed the general outlines from a CIA source. Then on March 3, 1967, we wrote that Robert Kennedy "may have approved an assassination plot, which then possibly backfired against his late brother."

The next day, according to records now available, Kennedy's secretary called for a copy of the May 7, 1962, memo, which summarized the briefing he had received on the assassination plot.

On March 7, 1967, we reported more details. "A reported CIA plan in 1963 to assassinate Cuba's Fidel Castro," we wrote, ". . . may have resulted in a counterplot by Castro to assassinate President Kennedy."

House Votes 280-65 to Probe Kennedy, King Assassinations

By Mary Russell
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House created a select committee yesterday to investigate the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The 12-member committee, established on a 280-to-65 vote, will be headed by Rep. Thomas Downing (D-Va.) for the remainder of this Congress, Speaker Carl Albert (D-Okla.) said. Downing, however, is retiring, and Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.), with Downing a prime sponsor of the committee, is expected to become chairman in the new session next January.

Downing said he would ask for $250,000 to get the committee started and hire staff, but Rep. Frank Thompson (D-N.J.), chairman of the House Administration Committee which must authorize the funds, indicated yesterday he might be reluctant to approve that amount.

Because the select committee expires at the end of this year and will have to be re-established by the House next year, it should wait until then for funding, Thompson said.

Downing said the committee would not hold public hearings before the Nov. 2 elections, to avoid charges of capitalizing politically on the investigation, but he said it might hold some closed hearings "in order to preserve testimony."

Reasons for looking again at the 1963 Kennedy assassination, he said, are revelations by the congressional intelligence committees that information about CIA attempts to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro was withheld from the Warren commission, the murder of two Mafia members enlisted by the CIA to help assassinate Castro, and the destruction of notes on Kennedy's autopsy and a note by assassin Lee Harvey Oswald to a member of the FBI.

The commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren investigated the assassination of Kennedy in Dallas and concluded that Oswald acted alone.

But Downing said yesterday, "I am convinced there was a conspiracy involved. I do not know the identity of the conspirators or their motives. That should be investigated in depth."

Downing promised "to engage in no witch hunts" and "not blame those who may have made mistakes in the original investigation."

Rep. B. F. Sisk (D-Calif.) called the planned investigation a waste of taxpayers' money to satisfy "the melodramatic desire of the morbid to create an incident."

Though Downing and Gonzalez set out more than a year ago to create the committee they were going nowhere until they received a push from members of the Congressional Black Caucus who felt they had received "new information" in the 1968 killing of Martin Luther King Jr. that called for a congressional investigation.

D.C. Del. Walter Fauntroy and Rep. Yvonne Burke (D-Calif.) confirmed that the information came from writer and TV producer Abby Mann, who is working on a documentary on King's death, and from writer Mark Lane, one of the first to doubt the Warren Commission conclusions.

Reportedly the information has been known since 1968 but never investigated by the FBI.

It deals with the removal of King's black security chief from his side shortly before he was killed in Memphis, and the sudden transfer of two black firemen from the firehouse across the street from the motel where King was staying and was shot.

Edward Redditt, in charge of security for King, was ordered to go home about 4 p.m. on the day of King's death, because of a reported attempt on the life of Redditt's family.

The order was atributed to Memphis Fire and Police Director Frank C. Holloman, who had worked for the FBI for 25 years, part of the time in the office of the late Director J. Edgar Hoover, who had tapped King's phone, and ordered surveillance of the civil rights leader.

Floyd Newsum, one of the black firemen abruptly transferred from the fire station across from the motel, said he had attended a King rally in Memphis and, though he publicly told of the transfer at the time, says he was never interviewed by the FBI.

20845

Full Inquiry Vowed on JFK, King

Associated Press

[illegible] Sprague answers reporters' questions after [illegible] sworn in as counsel in assassination inquiry. [illegible] him are Del. Walter Fauntroy (D-D.C.) and Thomas Downing (D-Va.), committee chairman.

By Mary Russell
Washington Post Staff Writer

Richard Sprague, sworn in yesterday as the acting counsel and director of the House select committee investigating the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., promised that "no document, and no witness" would be beyond the reach of his investigation into the murders of the two American leaders.

Sprague said the committee had given him virtually carte blanche to look into the Kennedy and King deaths.

House committee chairman Thomas Downing confirmed that the committee members would retain only the right to "veto" Sprague's actions, but would not interfere with his investigation and were giving him total control of hiring and firing staff.

Sprague, 51, built a reputation as a determined prosecutor when he served as assistant district attorney in Philadelphia from 1958 to 1974. He won convictions in more than [illegible] first-degree murder cases, losing only one. He is best known for the conviction of United Mine Workers president W. A. (Tony) Boyle in the murder of Joseph Yablonski, a union opponent.

Sprague said yesterday he was asking immediately that [illegible] up between [illegible] the Justice [illegible] the [illegible].

He said [illegible] the CIA or FBI [illegible] tempted [illegible] hoped Congress [illegible] back to the [illegible]

[illegible] individual or agency attempted to thwart" the investigation [illegible]

A Senate select intelligence committee report recently revealed that the Warren Commission was not told of attempts by the CIA to assassinate Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro.

There have been [illegible] that the FBI destroyed a note from Lee Harvey Oswald. In King's death, Frank C. Holloman, the Memphis police chief and a former FBI agent, pulled off King's black security guard and transferred two firemen from a station across the street from where King was killed on the day of King's death.

Sprague said he would conduct the investigations of the King and Kennedy deaths simultaneously. He refused to put a deadline on the investigations, saying he would have to go back to witnesses many times and it could take a "space of years."

The select committee, formed only a few weeks ago, dies at the end of the year and must be reconstituted at the beginning of the new Congress in January.

Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.) is expected to be the new committee chairman. Downing is retiring from Congress at the end of the [illegible].

Sprague, who is now in the private practice of law [illegible]

20843

House Assassination committee

THE WASHINGTON ~~POST~~ S-n

DATE 12 Oct 76 PAGE 22

James J. Kilpatrick

Again, those unexplained assassination details

Just before it closed up shop for the year, the House of Representatives created a select committee to investigate the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King. On balance — on very close balance — the venture may prove a useful undertaking.

Especially in the case of Kennedy, and to a lesser extent in the case of King, unanswered questions abound. These are questions of pervasive public interest. Nearly 13 years have passed since Kennedy was slain in Dallas; more than eight years have passed since King was slain in Memphis. The questions may be unanswerable. But if a [illegible] investigation [illegible] all the loose ends, [illegible] may be able to settle some of the [illegible]. It is worth a try.

The House committee will be headed by Congressman Thomas N. Downing of Virginia. I happen to have known Tom Downing for 20 years. He is a man of exceptional integrity and common sense. He is not altogether unbiased in the matter of Kennedy's assassination. "I am convinced," he says, "that there was a conspiracy involved." But Downing is perhaps as unbiased as any person who has become fascinated by the Kennedy mystery.

Downing is a lawyer, a former judge, a low-profile veteran of 18 years in the House. He is retiring at the end of this term, and has no political interest to promote.

Downing's 12-member committee will have a budget of $150,000 to finance its work until the 95th Congress convenes in January. Richard A. Sprague of Philadelphia, an experienced federal prosecutor, has signed on as chief investigator. No one expects the inquiry to be completed in the next three months. By voting 280-65 to authorize the investigation, the House implicitly promised to renew its approval next year. So the committee will have time and money to make a responsible effort.

What are they searching for? Says Downing, with disarming simplicity, "The truth." He is satisfied that the original investigation of Kennedy's assassination, headed by the late Chief Justice Earl Warren, [illegible] day, the [illegible] never cleared up doubts that arose at the time; the Warren investigators obviously were unable to examine evidence that has developed in the ensuing years.

Some of the questions go directly to events of that November day in Dallas. For one example, what kind of rifle was found on the sixth floor of the Textbook Depository Building? The rifle officially identified as the murder weapon, now in the National Archives, is a Mannlicher Carcano, 6.5, Italian carbine. You can inspect it yourself. Yet the gun first identified in the Dallas press was a 7.65 bolt action Mauser. The three officers who found the gun have confirmed that identification in statements under oath. It seems incredible that police officers, familiar with weapons, could have seen the words "Made in Italy, Cal. 6.5" and read them as "7.65 Mauser."

Questions involving the rifle, the "miracle bullet" and the autopsy findings are the relatively easy questions. Downing's committee wants to explore the tangled, shadowy trail of events over a span of three years preceding the November day. Who was Lee Harvey Oswald? Who was he really? How many "Oswalds" were floating around? Out of the mists of [illegible] that has [illegible] the Kennedy assassination in the whole of the Washington [illegible] by half.

What [illegible] committee may [illegible] legislative [illegible] ity to function as grand juries. Their only authority is to investigate in areas of specific legislative interest. The sole purpose of this investigation is to satisfy a gnawing national curiosity. I have not supposed this to be a function of the legislative branch, but it may [illegible] ward, Downing and [illegible] no stone unturned [illegible]

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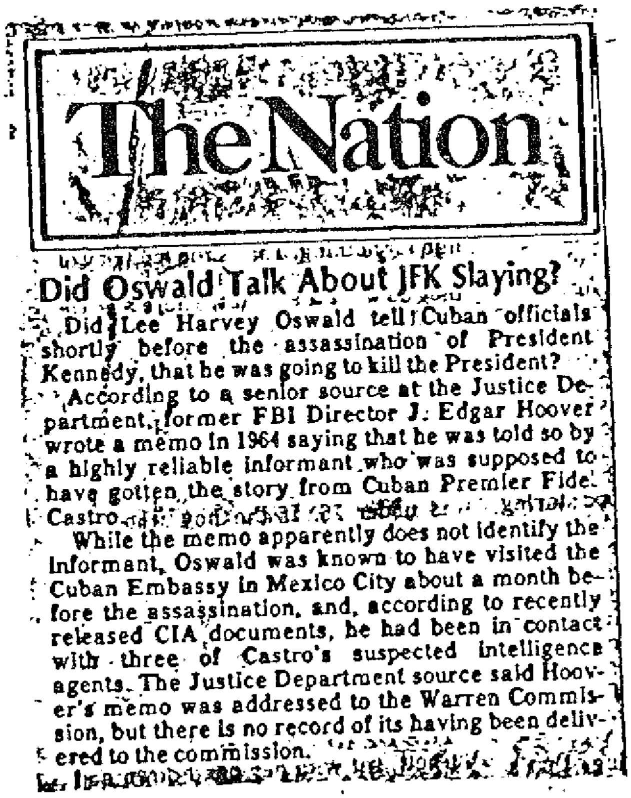
14 NOVEMBER 1976

HSC assassination



The Nation

Did Oswald Talk About JFK Slaying?

Did Lee Harvey Oswald tell Cuban officials shortly before the assassination of President Kennedy, that he was going to kill the President?

According to a senior source at the Justice Department, former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover wrote a memo in 1964 saying that he was told so by a highly reliable informant who was supposed to have gotten the story from Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

While the memo apparently does not identify the informant, Oswald was known to have visited the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City about a month before the assassination, and, according to recently released CIA documents, he had been in contact with three of Castro's suspected intelligence agents. The Justice Department source said Hoover's memo was addressed to the Warren Commission, but there is no record of its having been delivered to the commission.

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[redacted]

Date. 14 Nov
Item No. 1
Ref. No.

NEWS SERVICE

UP-046

PM-ASSASSINATION 11-15

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE NEW [illegible] HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON [illegible] MET FOR ITS FIRST FORMAL SESSION TODAY, CONFRONTED WITH NEW EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT CUBAN PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO KNEW IN ADVANCE THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD INTENDED TO KILL PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

THE 11-MEMBER PANEL WAS FORMED BY THE HOUSE SEPT. 17, WITH REP. THOMAS N. DOWNING, D-VA., AS CHAIRMAN TO START NEW INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE ASSASSINATIONS OF KENNEDY AND THE REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

TODAY'S CLOSED SESSION WAS CALLED PRIMARILY FOR THE FINAL SELECTION OF INVESTIGATORS AND STAFF SO THAT THE PANEL CAN GET DOWN TO WORK IN EARNEST WHEN THE NEW CONGRESS CONVENES IN JANUARY.

ITS MAIN TASK IS TO TRY TO FIND OUT IF CONSPIRACIES WERE INVOLVED, CONTRARY TO THE FINDINGS OF PREVIOUS INVESTIGATING COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND JAMES EARL RAY ACTED SOLELY ON THEIR OWN IN THE KILLING OF KENNEDY 13 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH IN DALLAS AND OF KING IN 1968 AT MEMPHIS.

CIA DOCUMENTS RELEASED LAST MARCH UNDER A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACTION REVEALED THAT A DEFECTOR TOLD THE AGENCY THAT OSWALD MAY HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH CUBAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS SEVEN WEEKS BEFORE KILLING KENNEDY.

THE MEMO WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN FORWARDED TO THE WARREN COMMISSION INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATION IN 1964, BUT IT WAS NOT [illegible]. THE COMMISSION, HEADED BY THE LATE SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN, CONCLUDED THAT OSWALD ACTED ALONE IN CARRYING OUT THE PRESIDENT'S MURDER.

FURTHER DETAILS OF POSSIBLE CUBAN KNOWLEDGE OF [illegible] WERE REPORTED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY IN THE FORM OF A MEMO [illegible] HAS NOW COME TO LIGHT AND WHICH IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE ASSASSINATION COMMITTEE.

THE CIA INFORMER IS SAID TO HAVE REPORTED THAT HE LEARNED OF OSWALD'S ASSASSINATION PLAN FROM CASTRO [illegible] WHEN [illegible] VISITED THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY [illegible] BEFORE THE DALLAS KILLING.

THE ASSASSINATION COMMITTEE IS ALSO EXPECTED TO [illegible] EVIDENCE THAT SURFACED EARLY THIS WEEK THAT [illegible]

UPI 11-15 [illegible]

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Date. 14 Nov
Item No. 2
Ref. No.

NEWS SERVICE

DISTRIBUTION II

[redacted]

ASSASSINATION

WASHINGTON, NOV 15, REUTER - CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS SAID TODAY THEY WILL SUBPOENA A GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT WHICH ALLEGES LEE HARVEY OSWALD TOLD CUBAN OFFICIALS HE INTENDED TO KILL PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY.

THE DECISION WAS ANNOUNCED BY CONGRESSMAN THOMAS DOWNING, CHAIRMAN OF THE NEWLY-ESTABLISHED HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS.

HE SAID THE DOCUMENT -- A 1964 MEMO BY THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) -- WAS AMONG MATERIAL DISCOVERED RECENTLY IN GOVERNMENT FILES.

THE VIRGINIA DEMOCRAT SAID HE FIRST BECAME AWARE OF ITS EXISTENCE FROM PRESS REPORTS. HE FELT SURE HIS PANEL'S REQUEST FOR A SEARCH OF GOVERNMENT FILES ON THE ASSASSINATION LED TO ITS DISCOVERY.

THE WASHINGTON POST, QUOTING INFORMED SOURCES, YESTERDAY SAID THE MEMO STATES THAT THE LATE FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER LEARNED FROM A RELIABLE INFORMANT THAT OSWALD TOLD CUBAN OFFICIALS HE PLANNED TO KILL PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

THE INFORMANT SAID HIS SOURCE WAS CUBAN PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO, AND THE OSWALD CONVERSATION OCCURRED A MONTH BEFORE PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS KILLED IN DALLAS ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963.

MORE 1255

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ASSASSINATIONS 2 WASHINGTON

COMMITTEE SOURCES SAID THE PANEL CONSIDERED THE NEWLY KEPT
SIGNIFICANT AND LIKELY TO SHED NEW LIGHT ON THE ASSASSINATION.

ISSUES THAT COULD BE RESOLVED ARE WHETHER OSWALD, NAMED BY
THE WARREN COMMISSION AS PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S KILLER, HAD CUBAN
GOVERNMENT BACKING AND WHETHER THE SLAYING WAS IN RETALIATION
FOR ALLEGED CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) EFFORTS TO KILL
DR. CASTRO.

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE WAS FORMED AFTER A SENATE INTELLIGENCE
COMMITTEE TASK FORCE REPORTED THAT THE FBI AND THE CIA WITHHELD
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION FROM THE WARREN
COMMISSION.

THE WARREN COMMISSION, WHICH ORIGINALLY INVESTIGATED THE
ASSASSINATION, HELD THAT OSWALD WAS PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S SOLE
ASSASSIN. OSWALD WAS KILLED BY A NIGHTCLUB OWNER, JACK RUBY,
TWO DAYS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION.

AT A FORMAL MEETING TODAY, THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO FORM
TWO SUBCOMMITTEES TO CONDUCT SEPARATE INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE
KENNEDY KILLING AND THE 1968 ASSASSINATION OF BLACK CIVIL
RIGHTS LEADER MARTIN LUTHER KING. THERE HAVE BEEN ALLEGATIONS
THAT THE KING ASSASSINATION MAY HAVE BEEN A CONSPIRACY.

REUTER 1217

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NEWS SERVICE

Date. 15 Nov
Item No. 3
Ref. No.
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DISTRIBUTION II

UP-090
(ASSASSINATION)
(BY DANIEL GILMORE)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATION HELD ITS FIRST FORMAL HEARING TODAY AND OUTLINED PLANS FOR A STAFF OF 170 TO INVESTIGATE THE MURDERS OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY AND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. "NO MATTER WHERE IT LEADS".

REP. THOMAS DOWNING, THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN UNTIL HE RETIRES AT

THE END OF THIS YEA
R, TOLD REPORTERS FOLLOWING A TWO-HOUR CLOSED SESSION THE PANEL HAD ASKED THE FBI AND CIA TO SURRENDER ALL DOCUMENTS AND MEMORANDA BEARING ON BOTH CASES. THESE WOULD INCLUDE A REPORTED FBI MEMO FOUND AFTER A NEW SEARCH OF BUREAU FILES AT THE COMMITTEE'S REQUEST ALLEGING THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD TOLD CUBAN OFFICIALS HE WOULD ASSASSINATE KENNEDY.

BOTH DOWNING AND RICHARD SPRAGUE, COMMITTEE CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR, SAID THEY HAD NOT SEEN THE MEMORANDUM, THE DETAILS OF WHICH WAS MADE PUBLIC YESTERDAY BY THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DOWNING SAID THE MORNING SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO PRELIMINARY STAFF ARRANGEMENTS AND THE FORMATION OF TWO SEPARATE SUBCOMMITTEES FOR THE KING AND KENNEDY INVESTIGATIONS. HE SAID A STAFF OF 170 "SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF PEOPLE BUT CONGRESS MANDATED US TO DO A THOROUGH JOB". HE SAID IT WAS REALLY A "BARE BONES STAFF" WHEN COMPARED TO THAT OF THE WARREN COMMISSION, WHICH FIRST INVESTIGATED THE KENNEDY KILLING.

NEITHER DOWNING NOR SPRAGUE WOULD PREDICT WHERE THE INVESTIGATIONS WOULD LEAD. "WERE GOING DOWN EVERY STREET UNTIL WE GET A BLIND ALLEY," DOWNING SAID.

THE COMMITTEE'S MAIN TASK IS TO FIND OUT IF CONSPIRACIES WERE INVOLVED, CONTRARY TO THE FINDINGS OF PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS, WHEN OSWALD ACTED ALONE IN KILLING KENNEDY AND WHEN JAMES EARL RAY MURDERED KING.

UPI 11-15 014[illegible] PES

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(870)

ADV FOR SUN NOV 21

FOCUS ON KENNEDY ASSASSINATION MOVES TO A SINGLE SCENE

BY MAX VANZI

DALLAS (UPI) -- LAST YEAR TELEVISION SPECIALS FEATURED FILMS OF THE KILLING AT THE MOMENT OF RIFLE BULLET IMPACT ALONG WITH YET ANOTHER FLOURISH OF BOOKS, ARTICLES AND SPEECHES BY EVER-INCREASING NUMBERS OF CRITICS CHALLENGING THE OFFICIAL FINDINGS.

THIS YEAR DIFFERED ONLY BY THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION MOVING TO A SINGLE SCENE -- WASHINGTON -- WHERE TWO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES JOINED THE STILL-GROWING BODY OF DOUBTERS.

HALF A GENERATION AFTER THE EVENT, WIDESPREAD INTEREST PERSISTS IN THE UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS AND OVERLOOKED POSSIBILITIES SURROUNDING THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

MONDAY MARKS THE COMPLETION OF 13 YEARS SINCE THE YOUNG PRESIDENT WAS FATALLY INJURED BY RIFLE BULLETS AS HE PASSED THE LAST BUILDING AT THE LAST INTERSECTION DURING AN OPEN-CAR TOUR OF DOWNTOWN DALLAS.

THE OFFICIAL WARREN COMMISSION DECLARED LEE HARVEY OSWALD, FIRING FROM A SIXTH FLOOR WINDOW OF THAT BUILDING, TO BE THE SINGLE ASSASSIN AND THAT HE CONSPIRED WITH NO ONE BEFOREHAND. OSWALD HIMSELF WAS MURDERED WHILE IN CUSTODY TWO DAYS LATER.

ASSASSINATION THEORIES ATTACKING THE WARREN COMMISSION FINDINGS HAVE MULTIPLIED WITH THE PASSING OF THE YEARS: OSWALD WAS FRAMED; HE WAS PART OF A TEAM; THE ASSASSIN'S BULLETS CAME FROM ANOTHER DIRECTION; WATERGATE PROVED ANYTHING WAS POSSIBLE, SO THE CIA DID IT; THE RUSSIANS DID IT BY SUBSTITUTING A KGB DOUBLE FOR ONE-TIME SOVIET DEFECTOR OSWALD.

THE LATEST OF THE THEORIES, GAINING IN SUBSTANCE SUFFICIENT TO WARRANT CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION, PLACES OSWALD IN LEAGUE WITH CUBAN CONSPIRATORS, POSSIBLY ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO IMMIGRANTS EMBITTERED BY KENNEDY'S PERCEIVED FAILURE TO OUST THE COMMUNIST PREMIER BY FORCE.

OF GREATER CURRENCY, HOWEVER, IS THE THEORY PLACING OSWALD WITH PRO-CASTRO PLOTTERS ACTING IN RETALIATION FOR CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ATTEMPTS TO ASSASSINATE CASTRO.

IT IS THIS POSSIBILITY WHICH APPEARS TO INTEREST CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS THE MOST.

20862

A SENATE COMMITTEE HEADED BY FRANK CHURCH, D-IDAHO, REPORTED IN JUNE THAT WHILE NO EVIDENCE OF A PRO-CASTRO PLOT EMERGED FROM ITS NINE-MONTH COMMITTEE STUDY -- THE CIA AND FBI WITHHELD FROM THE WARREN COMMISSION IMPORTANT LEADS TO A CUBAN CONNECTION -- AND POSSIBLY DID SO ON PURPOSE.

CASTRO HIMSELF WARNED IN A NEWS INTERVIEW LESS THAN THREE MONTHS BEFORE KENNEDY WAS SLAIN THAT U.S. ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS AGAINST CUBAN LEADERS COULD MEAN RETALIATION AGAINST THE LIVES OF U.S. LEADERS.

ON THE DAY KENNEDY WAS KILLED, THE CHURCH COMMITTEE REPORTED, THE

HALF A GENERATION AFTER THE EVENT, WIDES[illegible] THE UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS AND OVERLOOKED POSSIBILITIES SURROUNDING THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

MONDAY MARKS THE COMPLETION OF 13 YEARS SINCE THE YOUNG PRESIDENT WAS FATALLY INJURED BY RIFLE BULLETS AS HE PASSED THE LAST BUILDING AT THE LAST INTERSECTION DURING AN OPEN-CAR TOUR OF DOWNTOWN DALLAS.

THE OFFICIAL WARREN COMMISSION DECLARED LEE HARVEY OSWALD, FIRING FROM A SIXTH FLOOR WINDOW OF THAT BUILDING, TO BE THE SINGLE ASSASSIN AND THAT HE CONSPIRED WITH NO ONE BEFOREHAND. OSWALD HIMSELF WAS MURDERED WHILE IN CUSTODY TWO DAYS LATER.

ASSASSINATION THEORIES ATTACKING THE WARREN COMMISSION FINDINGS HAVE MULTIPLIED WITH THE PASSING OF THE YEARS: OSWALD WAS FRAMED; HE WAS PART OF A TEAM; THE ASSASSIN'S BULLETS CAME FROM ANOTHER DIRECTION; WATERGATE PROVED ANYTHING WAS POSSIBLE, SO THE CIA DID IT; THE RUSSIANS DID IT BY SUBSTITUTING A KGB DOUBLE FOR ONE-TIME SOVIET DEFECTOR OSWALD.

THE LATEST OF THE THEORIES, GAINING IN SUBSTANCE SUFFICIENT TO WARRANT CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION, PLACES OSWALD IN LEAGUE WITH CUBAN CONSPIRATORS, POSSIBLY ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO IMMIGRANTS EMBITTERED BY KENNEDY'S PERCEIVED FAILURE TO OUST THE COMMUNIST PREMIER BY FORCE.

OF GREATER CURRENCY, HOWEVER, IS THE THEORY ALLYING OSWALD WITH PRO-CASTRO PLOTTERS ACTING IN RETALIATION FOR CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ATTEMPTS TO ASSASSINATE CASTRO.

IT IS THIS POSSIBILITY WHICH APPEARS TO INTEREST CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS THE MOST.

20862

A SENATE COMMITTEE HEADED BY FRANK CHURCH, D-IDAHO, REPORTED IN JUNE THAT WHILE NO EVIDENCE OF A PRO-CASTRO PLOT EMERGED FROM ITS ~~NINE-MONTH COMMITTEE STUDY, THE CIA AND~~ FBI WITHHELD FROM THE WARREN COMMISSION IMPORTANT LEADS TO A CUBAN CONNECTION -- AND POSSIBLY DID SO ON PURPOSE.

CASTRO HIMSELF WARNED IN A NEWS INTERVIEW LESS THAN THREE MONTHS BEFORE KENNEDY WAS SLAIN THAT U.S. ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS AGAINST CUBAN LEADERS COULD MEAN RETALIATION AGAINST THE LIVES OF U.S. LEADERS.

ON THE DAY KENNEDY WAS KILLED, THE CHURCH COMMITTEE REPORTED, THE CIA WAS CONSPIRING WITH ITS OWN ASSASSIN, A SECRET CUBAN AGENT CODE-NAMED AMLASH, IN THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF CIA-BACKED ATTEMPTS ON CASTRO'S LIFE.

DESPITE A CIA LIAISON WITH THE WARREN COMMISSION AND DESPITE THE RELEVANCY TO THE KENNEDY KILLING, THE COMMISSION WAS NOT TO LEARN OF THE CASTRO ASSASSINATION PLOT.

THE FBI ALSO FAILED TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT, THE SENATE COMMITTEE SAID, NEGLECTING TO TAP ITS SOURCES IN THE CUBAN EXILE COMMUNITY FOR A POSSIBLE CONNECTION TO KENNEDY'S MURDER. FURTHERMORE, THEN FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER CONSIDERED THE WARREN COMMISSION AN ADVERSARY, WHICH DID THE INVESTIGATION NO GOOD EITHER,

[redacted]

XXX EITHER.
SEN. RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER, R-PA., WHO WITH SEN. GARY HART,
D-COLO., COMPRISED A SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION, TOLD
NEWSMEN AS THE COMMITTEE'S WORK CONCLUDED, "THERE IS NO LONGER ANY
REASON TO HAVE FAITH" IN THE WARREN COMMISSION FINDING THAT OSWALD
ACTED ALONE. THE CHURCH COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION IS NOW IN THE HANDS
OF A NEW SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE WHICH IS REPORTED MOVING
AHEAD, SIFTING THROUGH MATERIAL GATHERED BY ITS PREDECESSOR.
IN THE HOUSE, A SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS WAS FORMED THIS
YEAR AND MET FORMALLY FOR THE FIRST TIME LAST WEEK, PLEDGED TO
CONDUCT OPEN-ENDED INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE MURDERS OF KENNEDY AND OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; THE COMMITTEE ALREADY HAS TURNED OVER THE
NEWEST CLUE IN THE CUBAN CONNECTION TO THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.
AT THE COMMITTEE'S REQUEST, A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SEARCH OF
PERTINENT FBI FILES PRODUCED A REPORT ALLEGING OSWALD INFORMED THE
CUBAN GOVERNMENT OF HIS INTENTION TO ASSASSINATE KENNEDY SEVEN WEEKS
BEFORE THE PRESIDENT WAS KILLED.
THE REPORT WAS IN THE FORM OF A 1964 MEMORANDUM BY HOOVER INTENDED
FOR THE WARREN COMMISSION BUT WHICH WAS NEVER DELIVERED. THE
INFORMATION SUPPOSEDLY ORIGINATED WITH CASTRO HIMSELF AND WAS RELAYED
BY A RELIABLE FBI INFORMANT.
WELL-STAFFED AND PRESSING FOR ENOUGH FUNDS TO STAY ON THE JOB, THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE IS WADING INTO ITS TASK WITH APPARENT VIGOR AND
CONVINCED IT MAY ACHIEVE RESULTS.
"WE ARE GOING DOWN EVERY STREET UNTIL WE GET A BLIND ALLEY," SAYS
REP. THOMAS N. DOWNING, D-VA., CHAIRMAN OF THE 12-MEMBER PANEL. HE IS
RETIRING AND IS LIKELY TO BE SUCCEEDED BY REP. HENRY B. GONZALEZ,
D-TEXAS. GONZALEZ SAYS HE WAS A SUPPORTER OF THE WARREN COMMISSION
FINDING "UNTIL 1973 DURING WATERGATE INQUIRY WHEN THINGS WERE
TESTIFIED ABOUT THAT I NEVER BELIEVED COULD HAVE HAPPENED."
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UPI 11-15 10:46 PES

~~FULL TEXT COPY — DO NOT RELEASE~~.

Date. 16 Nov
Item No. 2
Ref. No.

NEWS SERVICE

DISTRIBUTION II

WASHINGTON (AP) -- THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS WILL HIRE 170 INVESTIGATORS FOR ITS PROBE OF THE ASSASSINATIONS OF JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL RICHARD SPRAGUE SAID MONDAY THE 170 PEOPLE HE PLANS TO HIRE "IS A SMALL FIGURE" FOR INVESTIGATING TWO MURDERS. BY COMPARISON, SPRAGUE SAID, THE WARREN COMMISSION HAD 50 AIDES OF ITS OWN, 150 FBI AGENTS, 50 SECRET SERVICE AGENTS AND THE HELP OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE IN ITS PROBE.

THE SENATE WATERGATE COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, WHICH BOTH CONDUCTED LARGE-SCALE INVESTIGATIONS IN THE RECENT PAST, HAD ONLY ABOUT 100 MEMBERS ON EACH STAFF.

11-16-76 09:43EST

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Date. 17 Nov
Item No. 3
Ref. No.

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NEWS SERVICE

DISTRIBUTION II

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Assassinations
By Ranjit de Silva
Washington, Nov 17, Reuter The Warren Commission had
access to an FBI memo which alleges Cuban Premier Fidel Castro
may have known Lee Harvey Oswald intended to kill President
Kennedy, Senate Intelligence Committee sources said today.
The sources said the memo, written by the late Federal
Bureau of Investigation Director J. Edgar Hoover, was sent on
June 17, 1964 to the Warren Commission.
According to the sources, the memo said the FBI had learned
from a reliable informant that Dr. Castro was aware of Oswald's
plot to kill President Kennedy seven weeks before the November
22, 1963, assassination in Dallas, Texas.
The memo is now being sought by a House of Representatives
Special Committee on Assassinations set up to probe allegations
that the Kennedy murder might have been in retaliation for
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) plots to kill Dr. Castro.
The Warren Commission, which never released the memo,
concluded that there was no conspiracy in the Kennedy murder
and that Oswald acted alone.
More 1233

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Assassinations 2 Washington

The Assassinations Committee is also probing allegations by Senate investigators earlier this year that the FBI and the CIA withheld important information from the Warren Commission.

Senate sources said the memo was also turned over to the newly-formed Senate Intelligence Committee, which is expected to decide next year whether to conduct its own inquiry into President Kennedy's assassination.

The sources said the memo essentially contained the same information about Oswald's plan given by Dr. Castro in an interview with the National Inquirer newspaper on October 15, 1967.

In the interview, Dr. Castro was quoted as saying: ''Yes, I have heard of Lee Harvey Oswald's plans to kill the President (Kennedy). I might have been able to save him but didn't -- I never believed the plan would be put into effect.''

Apart from the Kennedy killing, the Assassinations Committee is also investigating the 1968 slaying of black civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

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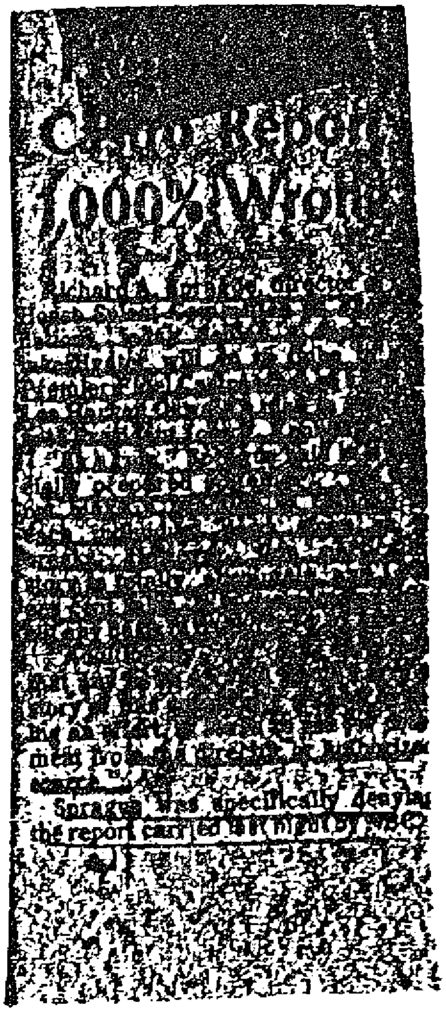
WASHINGTON STAR DATE 19 NOV 76 Page 3



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Richard A. [illegible] director [illegible]

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Sprague was specifically denying the report carried [illegible]

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[illegible] assassination

WASHINGTON POST

24 NOV

[illegible]

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

The chief counsel for the House investigation of the murders of President Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. promised yesterday a thoroughly independent investigation that would not rely on either the FBI or the Central Intelligence Agency.

The congressional inquiry, which may take two years, would be "the laughingstock of the world" if it depended on any government agencies for its detective work, said Richard A. Sprague, chief counsel for the new House committee on assassinations.

He told reporters at a breakfast meeting that one of the chief reasons for the new investigation into President Kennedy's death 13 years ago was the fact that the Warren Commission did not have its own investigative staff.

The commission concluded, in the fall of 1964, that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, had killed the President from the sixth floor of the Dallas School Book Depository.

It later turned out that some FBI documents concerning Oswald had been destroyed and that both the CIA and the FBI had withheld relevant evidence concerning CIA-sponsored plots to kill Cuban premier Fidel Castro.

Widespread complaints have also been raised about the FBI inquiry into King's death for which James Earl Ray is currently serving a 99-year term in Tennessee.

The Senate intelligence committee disclosed last year the FBI had waged a persistent undercover campaign to discredit King that continued even after the civil rights leader had been killed in Memphis in 1968.

Sprague said the importance of a thorough, independent investigation was the chief reason that the new assassinations committee is seeking a 170-member staff. Unless the inquiry can be conducted in a definitive, professional manner that will attempt to resolve every pressing doubt about both killings, Sprague said, it would be better not to undertake it at all.

"There's no halfway part in this thing," he declared. "It's either got to be done thoroughly or you don't do it."

Sprague envisioned a staff of 15 "attorney-investigators" and another 25 investigators for each of the two killings. A career prosecutor from Philadelphia, he also plans to hire a 50-member "document and research unit" that will attempt to compile and collate every available document on the two assassinations and make sure that all new bits and pieces of information are channeled to the appropriate investigators.

A legal staff of five to uphold the committee's subpoenas and other powers, a security team, a two-member polygraph unit, along with requisite clerical and secretarial personnel, would complete the proposed committee staff.

Of polygraphs and the newer, so-called "stress evaluators," Sprague said that "I do not think that either of these two instruments are infallible. I would not use either one in a court of law. But as an investigative tool, they are valuable."

He said a stress evaluator, which attempts to measure tensions in a person's voice, might be used on tape recorded [illegible] as [illegible] it is not [illegible] [illegible]

Sprague declined [illegible] former or present FBI or CIA [illegible] to submit to polygraph tests, but he [illegible] that "I do not exempt anybody" from a possible request of that nature. In a criminal investigation, he said, "You just don't march 'em [witnesses] in and let them give their version of something."

The investigation into the two assassinations will proceed simultaneously and has already started with the issuance of committee subpoenas for pertinent records in the custody of law enforcement agencies in Texas and Tennessee.

Speaking of the King case, Sprague said it was "most unusual" that Tennessee authorities did not insist on a full interrogation of Ray and a full statement from him in return for the plea-bargain whereby he received a 99-year sentence instead of the death penalty.

"I think it is most unusual where somebody is pleading guilty to the murder of an individual and obviously questions have arisen whether or not others were involved, or others were behind it," Sprague said.

He said the committee staff, which numbers about 30 at present, is also attempting to check into reports that some records concerning police surveillance of King before he was killed may have been destroyed recently in connection with an apparently widespread destruction of surveillance records in Memphis.

At a special meeting of the Shelby County (Tenn.) Law Enforcement Committee yesterday, United Press International reported, the committee chairman, Joe Cooper, said all local records pertinent to King's assassination would be proven intact.

"The guy in Wshington overloaded his mouth when he said records were destroyed and then left it hanging," Cooper was quoted as saying. "We're going to put it on the record for the media and the public to see that the records are intact."

2086

CIA Withheld Details on Oswald Call

By Ronald Kessler
Washington Post Staff Writer

1 In late September, 1963—eight weeks before the assassination of President Kennedy—Lee Harvey Oswald telephoned the Soviet embassy in Mexico City and tried to make a deal.

2 In exchange for unspecified information, he wanted a free trip to Russia.

3 This conversation was intercepted and recorded by the Central Intelligence Agency at the time. But it was not then turned over to the FBI, which has responsibility for investigating possible spies, and it was not later turned over to the Warren Commission during its investigation of the assassination.

The unanswered question is why not?

4 The existence of the CIA telephone intercept of Oswald's conversation in Mexico City and the contents of the still-secret transcript have been verified by The Washington Post. The Post has also verified that the CIA failed to turn over the complete transcript to either the FBI or the Warren Commission.

5 Instead, the CIA gave the FBI in October, 1963, only a brief report saying Oswald had made contact with the Russians. It gave the Warren Commission a transcript of the taped conversation but for unexplained reasons failed to include in the transcript 6 Oswald's offer of information and his suggestion that the Russians would want to pay his way to the Soviet Union.

7 The Post has also determined that the CIA, for unexplained reasons, told the Warren Commission that it learned of most of Oswald's activities in Mexico City only after the assassination. The fact is, however, that the CIA monitored and tape-recorded his conversation with both the Russian and Cuban embassies in Mexico City in the fall of 1963, before Kennedy's death.

8 It was the CIA's belief that the two embassies were heavily involved in the spy business and that, specifically, they were operational bases for intelligence activities directed at the United States.

So, with the full cooperation of the Mexican government, CIA wiretaps were installed on telephone lines going into both embassies.

The CIA was especially interested in U.S. citizens who made contact with the embassies.

Thus, when Oswald showed up in Mexico City in late September and telephoned the Russian embassy, his conversation was picked up from the wiretap. A transcript was made and circulated in the CIA offices in the American embassy in Mexico City.

The station chief at that time was the late Winston M. Scott, who personally reviewed all transcripts emanating from wiretaps on Soviet bloc installations.

The Oswald transcript, according to a CIA translator who worked with Scott, aroused a lot of interest.

"They usually picked up the transcripts the next day," he said. "This they wanted right away."

9 What that transcript contained is a matter of some dispute, and the CIA says it routinely destroyed the tape before the assassination. But some

See OSWALD, A7, Col. 1

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
... telephoned Soviet embassy

CIA Withheld Details on Oswald Call

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See OSWALD, A7, Col. 1

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
. . . telephoned Soviet embassy

WASHINGTON POST, 26 November 1976

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WASHINGTON POST, 26 November 1976

CIA Withheld Details on Osw

OSWALD, From A1

people who saw the transcript or heard the tape before the assassination recall that Oswald was trying to make a deal.

One of them is David A. Phillips, a former CIA officer, who now heads 10 the Association of Retired Intelligence Officers and is a leading defender of CIA activities. Phillips was stationed in Mexico City at the time.

The transcript revealed, Phillips recalled, that Oswald told the Soviet embassy: "I have information you 11 would be interested in, and I know you can pay my way" to Russia.

The stenographer who typed up the transcript and the translator who prepared it had similar recollections.

"He said he had some information to tell them," the typist said in an 12 interview in Mexico. "His main concern was getting to one of the two countries [Russia or Cuba] and he wanted them to pay for it. He said he had to meet them."

The Warren Commission later concluded the Russians and Cubans were not much impressed by Oswald. This view is supported by Sylvia Duran, a Mexican citizen who worked in the Cuban embassy at the time of Oswald's visit. She talked to Oswald on 13 Sept. 27, 1963, and recalls the meeting in some detail.

In a joint interview in Mexico City with this reporter and Post special correspondent Marlise Simons, Duran said Oswald told her that he wanted to travel to Cuba and Russia and displayed documents to show he was a "friend" of the Cuban revolution. Among other things, he claimed to be a member of the American Communist Party.

Duran said she informed Oswald that in order to travel to Russia he would have to obtain permission from the Soviets. Oswald went off and returned later in the day to inform 15 Duran that he had obtained the necessary permission. Duran said she called the Soviet embassy and was told Oswald's application for a visa would take three to four months to process. Informed of this, Duran said, Oswald "got really angry and red. He was gesticulating." Duran said she had to call for help from the Cuban consul who got into a shouting match with Oswald and told him to get out. Duran said she never saw him again.

SYLVIA DURAN
...recalls talk with Oswald

17 However, Duran's story covered only 14 the first day of Oswald's five-day stay in Mexico City. Oswald later referred in a letter to "meetings" he had in the Soviet Embassy.

How interested the CIA was in Oswald's dealings with the two embassies is uncertain.

The translator and typist who handled the transcript of the intercepted conversation recalled that the level of interest was high. But the CIA's own actions lead to a different conclusion.

The agency waited until Oct. [illegible] 1963, to notify the FBI of Oswald's activities. And its teletyped report made no mention of Oswald's offer of information in exchange for a free trip to Russia or of his attempts to travel to Cuba and Russia. "On October 1, 1963," the teletype message said, "a reliable and sensitive source in Mexico reported that an American male, who identified himself as Lee Oswald, contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City inquiring whether the embassy had received any news concerning a telegram which had been sent to Washington."

That was strictly a routine handling of the matter, and similar to the standard reports made to the FBI at that time on other contacts with the communists by American citizens in Mexico.

Even after Kennedy's assassination, the CIA failed to turn over to the Warren Commission the full transcript of the telephone intercept it had made in Mexico City. Oswald's offer of information to the Russians in ex16 change for passage was omitted from the transcript, and the CIA claimed it did not know of most of Oswald's activities in Mexico City until after the assassination.

The significance of the CIA actions is difficult to assess. The FBI in the fall of 1963 was already showing intermittent interest in Oswald and might or might not have intensified that interest if it had been told of Oswald's conversations.

Whether the new information would have affected the Warren Commission's deliberations is also an open question. The commission investigated the possibility of a foreign conspiracy and concluded there was no evidence to show Oswald acted on behalf of a foreign power.

Nevertheless, there is yet no explanation for the CIA's handling of Oswald's conversations. The CIA today refuses to comment, saying it would not be appropriate in the light of an impending investigation by the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

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House Assassinations 31

UP-136

(OSWALD)

(BY DANIEL F. GILMORE)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A FORMER CIA OFFICIAL WITH PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE CASE SAID FRIDAY HE BELIEVES THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS CONSIDERED LEE HARVEY OSWALD "A KOOK" AND NEVER ENCOURRAGED HIM TO KILL JOHN KENNEDY.

DAVID PHILLIPS, WHO WAS INVOLVED IN CIA SURVEILLANCE OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY IN 1963, SAID THE AGENCY KNEW OSWALD HAD CONTACTED CUBAN AND SOVIET DIPLOMATS THERE MORE THAN A MONTH BEFORE KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION ON NOV. 22, 1963.

"MY CONVICTION, BASED ON MY PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF OSWALD'S CONTACTS WITH CUBAN AND SOVIET OFFICIALS IN MEXICO CITY BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION, IS THAT THEY CONSIDERED HIM A KOOK AND THAT HE RETURNED TO DALLAS ALONE," PHILLIPS SAID IN AN INTERVIEW.

"I KNOW OF NO EVIDENCE WHICH ESTABLISHES THAT OSWALD WAS ENCOURRAGED BY EITHER EMBASSY TO KILL PRESIDENT KENNEDY. AND I REMAIN CONVINCED TODAY THAT THEY DID NOT."

THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTED FRIDAY THAT THE CIA INTERCEPTED AND RECORDED A TELEPHONE CALL OSWALD MADE FROM THE CUBAN TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY DURING HIS 1963 VISIT, BUT FURNISHED ONLY PART OF THE TRANSCRIPT TO THE FBI AND, LATER, TO THE WARREN COMMISSION WHICH INVESTIGATED THE KENNEDY MURDER.

THE POST SAID THE CIA DELETED THAT PORTION OF THE CONVERSATION IN WHICH OSWALD OFFERED "INFORMATION" OF AN UNSPECIFIED NATURE TO THE SOVIETS IN RETURN FOR PAID PASSAGE TO THE SOVIET UNION.

OF OSWALD'S VISIT TO MEXICO CITY, PHILLIPS SAID, "I HAVE THE RECOLLECTION, HAZY AFTER 14 YEARS, THAT OSWALD INTIMATED THAT HE HAD INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE USEFUL TO THE SOVIETS AND CUBA AND THAT HE HOPED HE WOULD BE PROVIDED FREE TRANSPORTATION TO THE SOVIET UNION BY WAY OF CUBA ...

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"I DO NOT KNOW WHAT CIA INFORMATION CONCERNING OSWALD'S VISIT WAS PASSED TO THE WARREN COMMISSION. ALL THAT I DO KNOW HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH INVESTIGATED THE ASSASSINATION WHEN I TESTIFIED TO THEM."

THE WARREN COMMISSION CONCLUDED THAT OSWALD ACTED ALONE IN SHOOTING KENNEDY.

THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE SAID BOTH THE CIA AND FBI WITHHELD FROM THE COMMISSION INFORMATION ON OSWALD'S ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS NOTIFICATION THAT THE CIA HAD BEEN PLOTTING TO KILL CUBA'S PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO -- INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT HAVE HAD A BEARING ON CASTRO'S ATTITUDE TOWARD PLOTS TO KILL KENNEDY.

CASTRO HAS BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING HE KNEW OSWALD HAD THREATENED TO KILL KENNEDY, BUT THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE OSWALD WOULD DO IT AND SO HE DID NOT WARN KENNEDY.

A NEW HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS IS REINVESTIGATING THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION IN HOPES OF RESOLVING PERSISTENT SPECULATION ABOUT ALLEGED CONSPIRACIES BEHIND THE MURDER.

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House Com on Assassinations

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AM-OSWALD 11-27

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS HAS SUBPOENAED FORMER CIA OFFICER DAVID PHILLIPS TO TESTIFY ABOUT LEE HARVEY OSWALD'S SOVIET AND CUBAN CONTACTS IN MEXICO CITY.

"I HAVE BEEN SUBPOENAED TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE," PHILLIPS SAID SATURDAY. "WHERE AND WHEN I CANNOT SAY."

PHILLIPS WAS INVOLVED IN CIA SURVEILLANCE OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY IN 1963, WHEN OSWALD VISITED IT EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS MURDERED.

THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTED FRIDAY THAT THE CIA HAD INTERCEPTED AND RECORDED A PHONE CALL OSWALD MADE FROM THE CUBAN TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY DURING HIS VISIT. BUT THE POST SAID THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY FURNISHED ONLY PART OF THE TRANSCRIPT TO THE FBI AND LATER TO THE WARREN COMMISSION WHICH INVESTIGATED THE KENNEDY MURDER.

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PHILLIPS TOLD REPORTERS FRIDAY "THAT OSWALD INTIMATED (DURING THE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION) THAT HE HAD INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE USEFUL TO THE SOVIETS AND CUBA AND THAT HE HOPED HE WOULD BE PROVIDED FREE TRANSPORTATION TO THE SOVIET UNION BY WAY OF CUBA ...

"I DO NOT KNOW WHAT CIA INFORMATION CONCERNING OSWALD'S VISIT WAS PASSED TO THE WARREN COMMISSION," HE SAID.

THE WARREN COMMISSION CONCLUDED THAT OSWALD WAS THE LONE ASSASSIN IN KENNEDY'S NOV. 22, 1963, DEATH. THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS IS RE-OPENING THE INVESTIGATION.

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AM-OSWALD 1STLD-PICKUP4THGRAF A230 11-27

BY DANIEL F. GILMORE

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- RESPONDING TO A CONGRESSIONAL SUBPOENA, FORMER CIA OFFICER DAVID PHILLIPS TOLD A CLOSED SESSION OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS SATURDAY ABOUT LEE HARVEY OSWALD'S SOVIET AND CUBAN CONTRCTS IN MEXICO CITY.

AFTER ALMOST FOUR HOURS OF TESTIMONY, PHILLIPS EMERGED AND TOLD REPORTERS HE HAD GIVEN THE COMMITTEE "WHAT I KNEW" ABOUT THE TRIP OSWALD MADE TO MEXICO EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED IN 1963.

PHILLIPS WAS INVOLVED IN CIA SURVEILLANCE OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY AT THE TIME OSWALD VISITED IT. HE REFUSED, HOWEVER, TO DISCLOSE WHAT HE HAD TOLD THE COMMITTEE ABOUT KENNEDY'S ACCUSED ASSASSIN.

"I TOLD THE SELECT COMMITTEE WHAT I KNEW ABOUT THE VISIT TO MEXICO CITY OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD," HE SAID. "IT WAS AN EXECUTIVE SESSION. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WRONG TO SAY WHAT I SAID AND I KNOW IT WOULD BE ILLEGAL."

IN RESPONSE TO A REPORTER'S QUESTIONS, PHILLIPS SAID HE HAD NOT PLEADED THE FIFTH AMENDMENT AT ANY TIME. HE SAID HE WAS ADVISED TO BE AVAILABLE IN CASE HE HAD TO BE RECALLED IN FUTURE DAYS.

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House Assassination

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NEWSWEEK
ecember 1976

INVESTIGATIONS:

Back to Square One

At daybreak, members of the Kennedy family prayed at the grave of John F. Kennedy. In Dallas, where the President was shot, more than 300 people attended a memorial service that had nearly been canceled for lack of interest. But while Americans marked the thirteenth anniversary of Kennedy's assassination last week, Congress was beginning yet another investigation of it. In what may become the nation's most extensive Congressional inquiry, the House Select Committee on Assassinations has subpoenaed records of the Kennedy murder and begun hiring a staff. At the request of the Congressional Black Caucus, the select committee will conduct a simultaneous investigation into the killing of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Many critics have never been satisfied with the conclusion of previous investigations—that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, shot Kennedy, and that James Earl Ray, acting alone, shot King. But a more important reason for another major inquiry into the Kennedy and King deaths seems to have been the recent disclosures of malfeasance and lawbreaking by the CIA and the FBI. The charges provoked strong suspicions that neither agency cooperated fully with—and may even have impeded—earlier investigations.

Plots: Both the CIA and FBI, for instance, are thought to have withheld information about a possible Cuban connection in Kennedy's death. Despite speculation that the government of Fidel Castro might have been involved in the Kennedy assassination—perhaps in retaliation for CIA efforts to kill Castro—the CIA did not tell the Warren commission of its plots against the Cuban leader. Recently, the Justice Department also uncovered a 1964 memorandum by the late FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, saying that Oswald about two months before the assassination, had told Cuban officials in Mexico that he intended to kill the President.* Hoover attributed this information to an informant who claimed to have been told it by Castro. The Hoover memo was reportedly addressed to the Warren commission, but former staffers said they had no recollection of receiving it.

The committee also has some intriguing questions to consider about King's assassination. It is known that the FBI—which led the original investigation into King's death—waged a campaign to discredit him that continued even after his death. Last week the committee's chief counsel, Richard Sprague, said he found it "most unusual" that authorities did not fully interrogate Ray, or demand that he tell all he knew about King's murder. Sprague, 51, a Philadelphia prosecutor who led the team that convicted former mineworkers' boss W.A. (Tony) Boyle for the Yablonski murders, is also checking reports that documents relevant to the King case may have been burned last September in Memphis (Tennessee officials denied the reports).

Texas Democrat Henry Gonzalez, who is expected to chair the select committee when the new Congress convenes in January, has promised an investigation free of the headline hunting that has characterized many Congressional committees. He and Sprague intend to hire 170 people to staff two separate teams—one for each murder. Their work could last two years and cost $4 million. Says Sprague: "I want an investigation where, if somebody says, 'But did you look into this possibility?' I can say, 'Yes, we did'." The question is whether thirteen years after JFK's death and eight years after King's a comprehensive inquiry can really be conducted—and even if it can, whether it will answer all the doubts about their murders.

—SUSAN FRAKER with STEPHAN LESHER in Washington

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*At about the same time, Oswald telephoned the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City and offered to trade information of some sort for a trip to Russia. But it was revealed last week that the CIA, which intercepted the conversation, did not make a complete transcript of it available to either the FBI or the Warren commission.

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WASHINGTON POST
2 DECEMBER 1976

Recommendation in JFK Probe

Warren Critics Cite Role on Sprague

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

Two leading critics of the Warren Commission's report on the assassination of President Kennedy said yesterday that they recommended Philadelphia lawyer Richard A. Sprague as chief counsel for the new House inquiry into the murder.

One of the critics, Mark Lane, also said that he sounded out Sprague about the job at a get-together in Philadelphia Oct. 6 and subsequently accompanied Sprague to meetings with several members of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, including Chairman Thomas N. Downing (D-Va.). Sprague took the job Oct. 7.

"I went to Philadelphia, had dinner with him and came away convinced that if he was the man who did it, it would be an excellent investigation," said Lane, whose Citizens Commission of Inquiry has been pressing since early 1975 for a congressional probe.

The other Warren Commission critic, Washington lawyer Bernard Fensterwald, said he had initially been offered the top committee staff job by Downing, but turned it down, partly on the grounds that he could hardly be considered impartial.

The House committee has also been assigned to investigate the 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. Fensterwald represented James Earl Ray, who is serving a 99-year prison term for King's murder, from 1971 until recently.

In addition, as head of the private Committee to Investigate Assassinations, Fensterwald observed, "I've said for years that the Warren Commission report was a fairy story."

Lane and Fensterwald have been working for months with Downing and other members of Congress on the creation of the committee.

Shortly after the committee was created in September, Lane said that "Downing told me he was considering two people, Bud Fensterwald and me. I said either one would be a tragedy. You can imagine how tempted I was, but the media would have said, with absolute justification, that the committee had already reached a conclusion."

There has been considerable vagueness until now over the manner in which Sprague was selected. In an interview several days ago, for instance, Downing told a reporter that:

"Actually Sprague's name was submitted in a list offered by Congressman [Henry B.] Gonzalez. I talked to Henry about it. He doesn't know where the name came from. But as I looked into it, I became convinced that he [Sprague] was the best for the job."

In that same interview, Downing also said that Lane had never been considered. Of Fensterwald, the committee chairman said, "to say he was never considered wouldn't be right, but a lot of people were interested in this thing."

According to Lane, however, Downing gave up on Fensterwald with some reluctance. Lane said that when he emphasized Fensterwald's role as Ray's lawyer, Downing countered by suggesting that Fensterwald could handle the Kennedy inquiry and Lane the investigation of King's murder.

"I said, 'No, no, that would be counterproductive,'" Lane recalled yesterday in a telephone interview. "I've worked too hard for this. [Downing aide Rick] Feeney said I was being too selfish, but I said, 'No, I'm being unselfish. I want an impartial committee to say I was right.'"

Subsequently, Lane said he and George O'Toole, another Warren Commission critic, batted the question of who should get the job back and forth over the telephone. Lane said he mentioned the name of a high-ranking lawyer in the American Civil Liberties Union, but "George said, 'We're not really talking about a civil-libertarian, are we? We're talking about a tough prosecutor.' I said yeah."

O'Toole finally came up with Sprague's name, because of his prominence and success as a special prosecutor in the murders of United Mine Workers dissident Jock Yablinski, his wife and daughter.

That same day, either in late September or early October apparently, Lane went over to the Library of Congress, did some research on Sprague, and, duly impressed, called him long-distance. Lane said he made clear that he was "calling without portfolio" but asked Sprague, then in private practice in Philadelphia, if he would be interested in the job.

"He said 'the first thing you should know is that I worked for Arlen Specter' [former Philadelphia District Attorney and ex-Warren Commission lawyer who authored the "single bullet theory"]. I said, 'I don't see that as a problem at all. In one week, you're going to be up to your hips in evidence of conspiracy.'"

Finally, Lane recalled, Sprague said he would be interested only if Congress wanted a thorough investigation rather than "a splash and a few headlines."

Lane said he then talked to members of the committee including Del. Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.), about Sprague; got together with him in Philadelphia, and shortly thereafter, perhaps on Oct. 7, introduced him in separate meetings here with Fauntroy and Downing. Later, after Lane left for other engagements, "he went on to meet Gonzalez. He told me later, in essence, that they'd offered him the job."

Sprague went on the committee payroll as acting director Oct. 7. He is known as a tough, independent prosecutor and those who have dealt with him in the past predicted yesterday that he would conduct a thoroughly independent inquiry. Washington lawyer Joseph L. Rauh Jr., who worked with Sprague in the Yablonski killings, said he recommended the Philadelphian to Fauntroy in the strongest terms. "He told a lot of congressmen he was going to be the boss and they said okay," Rauh said. "I think he's absolutely great."

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THE LOS ANGELES TIMES
December 1976

House Assassinations

Assassination Probe Will Study Slayings of Giancana, Rosselli for Possible Link

BY NORMAN KEMPSTER
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—A new congressional committee plans a thorough investigation of the murder of Sam Giancana and John Rosselli to find out if the mobsters' deaths were linked to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Richard A. Sprague, staff director of the House assassinations committee, said Tuesday that the panel would explore the relationship between the President and the two mob figures as part of its investigation of the killings of Kennedy and civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King.

"In the investigations of both King and Kennedy, any other murder that has the appearance of relevancy must be investigated as well," Sprague, a former Philadelphia prosecutor, said during a breakfast meeting with The Times' Washington bureau.

Richard A. Sprague
AP photo

Outlining his plans for the $6.5 million-a-year inquiry he has proposed, Sprague said that his staff would use extensively two types of lie detectors: the usual polygraph, which must be physically attached to the witness, and a "stress evaluator," which its developers claim can indicate truth or falseness of tape-recorded statements.

The committee also plans to purchase two tiny transmitters that can be hidden in the clothing of an investigator during the questioning of a potential witness. When combined with the stress evaluator, this device will permit the committee to subject individuals to secret lie detector tests.

Sprague said that witnesses, including present or former government officials, would be asked to submit voluntarily to a polygraph test. "The stress evaluator can be used when a person does not agree to the polygraph," he said.

Discussing the value of the polygraph, Sprague said that a good operator "can subject someone to a test and have the person remain mute, yet, on the basis of the questions and the reading of the emotional responses, he can pinpoint where people met, on what occasions, who met them."

He said that no "bona fide" conclusion could be reached if a person refused to take a polygraph test. But he added, "from an investigator's standpoint, it might then make us question why not, and dig in that particular area more thoroughly."

Sprague said that the purpose of the investigation was to answer the many questions that have been raised since the Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin of Kennedy and since James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to the murder of King.

He said the committee would make public—chiefly through public hearings—the information that it develops, even if the disclosures might affect individuals or government agencies only indirectly connected to the murders.

Sprague said the committee might even reveal the identity of undercover CIA agents, if necessary to tell the full story.

Sprague said last week that the committee would hire its own investigators because it could not rely on the FBI and the CIA to do its leg work. He said that the agencies had withheld information from the Warren Commission on at least two occasions.

In elaborating on the matter Tuesday, Sprague said his staff has discovered instances in which federal agencies withheld information from the commission in addition to the previously disclosed situations. He declined to elaborate but he promised to supply details later.

"It is important to trace through each and every step that has the appearance of relevancy, even if it shows that the reason for the nondisclosure was for some other motive than involvement in the murders," he said.

It was in that connection that Sprague said the committee must conduct its own investigation of the deaths of Giancana, who was shot at least seven times in the basement of his Chicago home last year, and of Rosselli, who was killed and stuffed into an oil drum that later was found floating in Biscayne Bay near Miami earlier this year.

Giancana, reported once to have been second in command in the Chicago mob previously headed by Al Capone, and Rosselli, alleged to have been Giancana's West Coast lieutenant and who was once arrested for fixing card games at the Friars Club in Los Angeles, shared both friends and enemies with Kennedy.

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Judith Campbell Exner, a woman now living in San Diego, said last year that she had sexual relationships with both Kennedy and Giancana. Rosselli and Giancana also were involved in a CIA-backed plot to kill Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba.

Giancana was killed while the Senate - Intelligence Committee was trying to arrange for him to testify about the Castro plot. Rosselli did answer questions put to him by that committee but was not asked about possible links to the Kennedy assassination.

There have been no arrests in either the Giancana or Rosselli murders.

Sprague said that the committee had been promised the full cooperation of both the FBI and the CIA, including an apparently unprecedented agreement to give committee investigators accees to the "raw" files of the two agencies.

He also said he would insist on obtaining autopsy information and other evidence that has been placed under seal at the request of the Kennedy family.

House Assassinations

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UP-130

(ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATIONS)

(BY NICHOLAS DANILOFF)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS CONVENED TODAY TO REVIEW NEW LEADS INTO THE JOHN KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING MURDERS, REPORTEDLY INCLUDING THE DISCOVERY OF NEW WITNESSES IN THE KENNEDY CASE.

IN OPEN SESSION, THE PANEL FIRST ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE A TENTATIVE RESOLUTION TO BE PRESENTED TO THE INCOMING CONGRESS, ASKING PERMISSION TO EXTEND ITS LIFE THROUGH 1977.

THEN, BY A 6-2 VOTE, THE PANEL CLOSED ITS DOORS TO CONSIDER A DRAFT STAFF REPORT OUTLINING THE NEW AVENUES OF INVESTIGATION TURNED UP BY STAFF DETECTIVES IN 1976. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN THOMAS DOWNING, D-VA., SAID THAT REPORT CONTAINED "NO BOMBSHELLS" AND "NOTHING THAT IS SENSITIVE OR SHOULDN'T BE RELEASED".

DOWNING DECLINED TO SAY WHAT IT DOES CONTAIN, BUT SOURCES SAID THE INVESTIGATORS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FOUND KENNEDY ASSASSINATION WITNESSES NOT QUESTIONED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION OR DALLAS POLICE. THE SOURCES SAID THESE WITNESSES COULD SHED NEW LIGHT ON A BULLET FOUND ON A STRETCHER AT PARKLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL. THE BULLET PROMPTED THEORIES THAT A SECOND GUNMAN FIRED AT KENNEDY.

THE INFORMANTS ALSO SAID THEY HAVE IDENTIFIED THESE OTHER AREAS IN THE KENNEDY KILLING AS MATTERS NEEDING FURTHER INVESTIGATION:

-- DID CUBA'S PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO TRY TO HAVE KENNEDY ASSASSINATED IN RETALIATION FOR CIA PLOTS AGAINST HIS LIFE?

-- WHO WERE THE MYSTERIOUS TRAVELERS WHO, ACCORDING TO THE CIA, SLIPPED OVER THE U.S.-MEXICAN BORDER NOV. 22, 1963 -- THE DAY KENNEDY WAS KILLED -- AND NOV. 23, 1963? THEY REPORTEDLY WENT TO CUBA VIA MEXICO CITY.

IN THE KING CASE, THE INFORMANTS SAID THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ANSWERED:

-- WHERE DID JAMES EARL RAY GET SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS TO FINANCE HIS ESCAPE? HOW DID HE GET THE CANADIAN PASSPORT HE USED IN THE ESCAPE?

-- WHAT INFORMATION HAS BEEN COVERED UP AS A RESULT OF RAY'S GUILTY PLEA AND IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT PUBLIC TRIAL OR FULL JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION?

-- WHY WAS AN FBI AGENT, ASSIGNED TO WATCH KING IN MEMPHIS, TAKEN OFF HIS BEAT AFTER A MEETING OF FBI AND CIA REPRESENTATIVES JUST BEFORE KING'S MURDER?

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UP-129
(INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATIONS)
WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A SENATE COMMITTEE IS INVESTIGATING THE
INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES -- PARTICULARLY SOUTH
KOREA, CHILE AND IRAN -- WITHIN THE UNITED STATES, A COMMITTEE
SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

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"WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF SOME OF THESE FRIENDLY
FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES WHICH HAVE PUT AGENTS IN THIS COUNTRY,"
SAID SPENCER DAVIS, SPOKESMAN FOR THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE.

HE SAID THE INVESTIGATION IS AN OUTGROWTH OF RECENT INCIDENTS SUCH
AS THE ASSASSINATION IN WASHINGTON OF ORLANDO LETELIER, CHILE'S
FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER; THE ACTIVITIES OF SOUTH KOREA'S INTELLIGENCE
ACTIVITIES INCLUDING ALLEGATIONS OF INFLUENCE BUYING ON CAPITOL HILL,
AND ALLEGED HARASSMENT OF KOREAN AND IRANIAN STUDENTS IN THE UNITED
STATES BY AGENTS OF THEIR HOME COUNTRIES.

"WE ASKED THE FBI AND CIA TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT ALL
DEVELOPMENTS TO US AFTER THE DEATH OF LETELIER," DAVIS SAID.

"THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE KOREAN CIA OPERATIONS IN THIS COUNTRY
HAVE ALSO FALLEN WITHIN OUR OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES AS WELL AS THE
HARASSMENT OF KOREAN NATIONALS IN THIS COUNTRY AND A STATEMENT BY THE
SHAH OF IRAN DURING A TELEVISION PROGRAM ON THE ACTIVITIES OF IRANIAN
AGENTS IN THIS COUNTRY."

THE NEW YORK TIMES QUOTED ONE GOVERNMENT SOURCE AS SAYING "IT'S A
VERY TOUCHY MATTER, BECAUSE WE HAVE OUR OWN (INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES)
OPERATING OVERSEAS. THE CIA TRAINED AND HELPED ESTABLISH SOME OF
THESE (FOREIGN) AGENCIES, SO IT'S NOT LIKE GOING AFTER THE OPERATIONS
OF A POTENTIAL ENEMY."

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THE LOS ANGELES TIMES
1 January 1977

CIA Withheld Data on Oswald

Assassinations Panel Issues Report to House

BY NORMAN KEMPSTER
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—The CIA withheld from the FBI for almost two months in 1963 information that Lee Harvey Oswald had talked with Cuban and Soviet officials about his desire to visit those countries, a House committee reported Friday.

The Select Committee on Assassinations indicated in a report to the full House that its investigation of the murder of President John F. Kennedy would focus early in 1977 on a trip Oswald had made to Mexico City in October, 1963.

Chief Counsel Richard A. Sprague said that the committee staff had learned that a CIA message describing Oswald's activities in Mexico to federal agencies such as the FBI had been rewritten to eliminate any mention of his request for Cuban and Soviet visas. The message was sent in October, more than a month before the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination.

The CIA discovered Oswald's presence at the embassies through its routine surveillance of those facilities. Because Oswald had once defected to the Soviet Union, the CIA and FBI had been interested in his activities even before the Kennedy assassination.

The CIA's decision to withhold information was reversed shortly after Kennedy was killed. The agency reported Oswald's efforts to visit Cuba and the Soviet Union both to the FBI and to the Warren Commission, which concluded that Oswald was the assassin and had acted alone.

Sprague told a press conference that it was impossible without more information to know why the CIA had censored its own message.

But he said the incident raised two interesting questions: what might the other agencies have done differently if they had been more fully informed and why did the CIA decide to remove "information that was considered pertinent enough to be put in an initial draft of the message?"

There were no firm conclusions in the report, which the 12-member committee prepared after the first three months of its investigation into the murders of Kennedy and civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King.

Technically, the committee goes out of business Tuesday with the end of the session of Congress in which it was formed. The purpose of the year-end report was to urge the new Congress to reestablish the committee and to give it $6.5 million to pay for the first year of what could be a two-year investigation.

"In the three months since its establishment, the committee has initiated preliminary investigations into new and previously unpursued leads in both assassinations," the report said.

The committee said its staff investigators had recently questioned a former CIA agent who had "personal knowledge" of Oswald's visits to the Soviet and Cuban embassies in Mexico. As a result of that interview, the report said, staff members were sent to Mexico, where they found and questioned additional witnesses.

"These witnesses had never been sought out before by any investigative body, notwithstanding the fact that they had important information concerning statements by Lee Harvey Oswald in Mexico within 60 days of the assassination of President Kennedy," the report said.

The report said also that the committee staff had interviewed a person who asserted that he had discussed the King murder with James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty to the crime. The unidentified witness said that Ray had told him about contacting an associate in Europe to receive further instructions. The story, which was told to reporters by a committee member several weeks ago, has not been verified.

In a letter to New York Times columnist Anthony Lewis, Ray offered this week to testify under oath at a committee hearing. But Sprague and Walter F. Fauntroy, the District of Columbia's congressional delegate and the chairman of the King subcommittee said that no decision had been made on accepting Ray's offer.

However, Sprague indicated that it probably would be accepted.

"Any and all people who have relevant information will be interrogated," Sprague said.

In a personal statement issued in conjunction with the report, Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.), who is to become committee chairman in the new year, said a thorough investigation was needed to answer hundreds of pressing questions.

Gonzalez said that the committee hoped to discover whether former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's now well-known animosity toward King had affected the FBI's investigation of the assassination.

However, Gonzalez said, the committee's work could go well beyond the killings of Kennedy and King.

"The committee can shed light on the larger issue of political murder and violence," Gonzalez said. "We should not forget that President Ford had his own narrow escapes; no member of the House should forget that the Capitol Building was bombed . . ."

He said the committee's ultimate task was "to find out not just what happened but why."

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6 JANUARY 1977

FBI, Assassinations Unit Collide for First Time

By Jeremiah O'Leary
Washington Star Staff Writer

The House assassination committee and the FBI are beginning to take off the gloves.

Until this week, the committee and its feisty chief counsel-director, Richard A. Sprague, had been engaged in exaggeratedly polite conversations and correspondence with the FBI and CIA about the availability of evidence, records, documents, witnesses and other matters related to the murders of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Now the first collision has occurred: Sprague and the FBI have begun what may turn into the battle of the bullets.

The bullets in this instance are a "new" mangled one — which the FBI has and Sprague wants — found buried near Dallas' Dealey Plaza, where Kennedy was fatally wounded, and the original bullets from Lee Harvey Oswald's rifle — which the National Archives has and the FBI wants.

SPRAGUE, IN EFFECT, controls the bullets found in Dallas when Kennedy was killed in November 1963, while the FBI controls the bullet found there in November 1974. The FBI is trying to obtain the bullets Sprague controls, and Sprague will soon be doing the same with the bullet controlled by the FBI.

The new bullet was found two years ago by Richard H. Lester in three inches of dirt near the scene of the fatal wounding of Kennedy. Lester is a Dallas security guard whose hobby is using metal detectors to look for lost coins.

He kept the bullet a secret for two years because he found it on railroad property near Dealey Plaza, about 61 paces from the Texas School Book Depository from which, the Warren Commission said, Oswald fired the fatal shots.

But after hearing of the new investigation, Lester disclosed his discovery last month on a local radio talk show and to a Dallas newspaper before giving the bullet to the FBI. The FBI has examined it, and a spokesman said it is so mangled that the caliber cannot be determined.

That is why, an FBI spokesman said, it is important to get the Oswald bullets from National Archives where all the evidence has been kept since 1956.

THE ACTING CHIEF at the National Archives, James O'Neill, refused the FBI request for the bullets and informed Sprague. In turn, Sprague on Monday wrote to FBI Director Clarence Kelley that he considered it inappropriate for any agency to attempt to obtain evidence from the archives without discussing it with the House committee.

Even if the FBI's effort to get the Oswald bullets for new laboratory examinations was the result of an oversight, Sprague's letter makes it plain that he resents any end runs around the House committee by any agency.

On the other hand, the FBI obviously considers that it has not been relieved of its mandate to investigate new evidence, such as the new bullet, and is considering sending the dispute to the attorney general.

All this is complicated by the fact that there will soon be a new attorney general, a new CIA director and perhaps a new FBI director. And it is implicit in Sprague's letter of protest to Kelley that he considers the new bullet in possession of the FBI to be evidence to which he is entitled.

SPRAGUE FEELS HE has written commitments from the CIA and FBI to give his investigators unrestricted access to all evidence and documentation about the King and Kennedy assassinations and he fully intends to use those promises of cooperation. What is not clear is how the committee and the agencies will decide who has priority in the custody and examination of such evidence as the new bullet.

It has been evident from the outset that the FBI and CIA will, for all practical purposes, be on trial when the House committee begins its hearings that are likely to go on for the next two years. Errors and omissions by the two agencies, including information withheld from the Warren Commission, will be as much a part of the investigation as the efforts of Sprague to determine who the assassins were and why King and Kennedy were killed.

Neither Oswald nor James Earl Ray ever stood trial for the murders of which they were accused. Oswald was shot to death two days after Kennedy was killed, and Ray was allowed to plead guilty to the murder of King and has been in a Tennessee jail ever since on a 99-year sentence. Ray has been unsuccessful in attempting to recant his guilty plea and is seeking a trial but he indicated in a letter last week that he would be willing to appear before the House committee.

THE FBI IS SHOWING no signs of looking for a fight with Sprague at a time when Kelley is fighting to retain his job in the Carter administration. The FBI's ordeal since the death of J. Edgar Hoover, the undistinguished career of L. Patrick Gray and disclosures of some low-order FBI misuse of government property and services has the FBI on the defensive.

But there is some reason to believe that Sprague can make good use of a confrontation with the FBI now when it is still far from certain that the House will agree to the $6.5 million Sprague insists he needs for the first year of the investigation. Sprague is out on a limb, too, having publicly suggested that the job cannot be done properly with less money than he has asked for.

The House opened its first day of the 95th Congress by failing to give unanimous consent for reconstituting the committee. In addition, there will be hearings before the House Administration Committee and a floor vote before Sprague can be sure of the funding he requires. House insiders say the matter probably lies in the powerful hands of Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill. If the speaker wants the committee to have the money, it will be forthcoming.

Sprague has been clear enough about how matters such as the Dallas bullets will be handled. He will not rely on FBI lab reports but intends to hire his own forensic experts to evaluate ballistic evidence. To do this properly, it is clear that he will be asking the FBI for the single bullet it has obtained from Lester and that he will oppose any further FBI role in investigating the bullets or any other aspect of the Kennedy assassination.

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WASHINGTON POST

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Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

Mystery Witness in JFK Inquiry

A mystery witness has sworn to congressional investigators that a Central Intelligence Agency agent introduced him to Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas three months before Oswald gunned down President John F. Kennedy.

The witness, whom we have agreed to identify only as Mr. X because of attempts on his life, is the founder of a Cuban terrorist group that worked closely with the CIA.

The group held secret meetings at 3126 Hollandale in Dallas before the assassination. Not long after Kennedy was shot, a Dallas deputy sheriff was told by an informant that Oswald had been associating with some Cubans at "3128 Harlendale."

Mr. X's dramatic testimony casts new light on the story Sylvia Odio, daughter of a wealthy opponent of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, told to the FBI. Two months before the Kennedy killing, she reported, she was visited in her Dallas apartment by three men who identified themselves as friends of her father.

One was introduced to her as "Leon Oswald." When she saw the picture in the newspapers of the man who had shot Kennedy, she fainted from shock. It was the same Oswald, she was certain, who had visited her apartment.

Congressional investigators have now learned that the late J. Edgar Hoover deliberately misled the Warren Commission about Odio's mysterious visitors. She was such a persuasive witness that the commission staff was preparing to investigate her story thoroughly.

Staff members even speculated, according to one internal memo, that the anti-Castro forces might have recruited Oswald, a known, pro-Castro activist to kill Kennedy.

"The motive on this," states the memo, "would of course be the expectation that after the President was killed, Oswald would be caught or at least his identity ascertained; the law enforcement authorities and the public would then blame the assassination on the Castro government; and the call for a forceful overthrow would be irresistible."

But Hoover abruptly blocked this line of inquiry by notifying the Warren Commission on Sept. 21, 1964, that the FBI had located and identified Odio's callers. He named them as Loran Hall, Lawrence Howard and William Seymour, all anti-Castroites. Hoover even suggested that Odio could have confused the names "Loran Hall" and "Leon Oswald."

Now the congressional investigators have uncovered evidence that all three denied visiting the Odio apartment and that the FBI had obtained their denials *before* Hoover wrote his letter to the Warren Commission.

The investigators have also obtained the tape of a fascinating conversation, predicting two weeks in advance that Kennedy would be shot "from an office building with a high-powered rifle." The prediction was made by the late Joseph Milteer, a right-wing rabble rouser, who also happened to have close connections with anti-Castro leaders.

The conversation was taped on Nov. 9, 1963, in Miami by an FBI informant named Willie Somersett, who turned the tape over to the FBI the next day. Milteer is heard on the tape describing how Kennedy would die. Then the rabble rouser added knowingly that Kennedy "knows he is a marked man."

Milteer later admitted to the FBI that he had been in Dallas in June, 1963, but denied having any knowledge of the Kennedy assassination. However, the informant told the FBI that he asked Milteer after the shooting whether he had known about it in advance or had merely been guessing. "I don't do any guessing," replied Milteer.

But the most explosive development is Mr. X's statement that he met Oswald in the company of a CIA agent. Congressional investigators questioned the mystery witness closely on three separate occasions. They finally concluded that "his credibility is strengthened by the details he provides consistent with what he told us before. Significantly, he remains very strong on the Oswald sighting."

The encounter occurred in a downtown Dallas building, where Mr. X had an appointment with his CIA contact. The agent was accompanied by a man whom Mr. X later recognized as Kennedy's killer.

"When he saw it was Oswald that killed Kennedy," the investigators reported in a confidential memo, "he nearly freaked out, but he never said anything."

The investigators tried to pin down Mr. X on how he could be sure that man was Oswald. Mr. X replied, according to the memo, that he had learned "how to retain the characteristics of a person; he had trained himself to do that. And if it wasn't Oswald, it was someone who was exactly like Oswald, his exact double.

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Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

CIA Tied to False Oswald Story

The Central Intelligence Agency asked one of its Cuban operatives to help fabricate a story about Lee Harvey Oswald during the investigation of the John F. Kennedy assassination, the Cuban has told congressional investigators.

In an earlier column, we reported that the same witness claimed he had met the accused assassin in Dallas in the company of a CIA agent three months before Kennedy was killed.

We identified the witness only as Mr. X because of attempts on his life. But we have studied his detailed, confidential statements to congressional investigators. They interviewed him three times, cross-examining him closely. He gave them such specific information that they concluded he was a "credible" witness.

He told of meeting his CIA contact in the lobby of a Dallas office building in August, 1963. "This time he brought another guy," recounted Mr. X. "The guy never talked."

Mr. X explained that he had trained himself, as an underground leader, to memorize the characteristics of people he met. He immediately recognized the CIA agent's companion after seeing Oswald on television following the Kennedy assassination.

Not long afterward, the CIA contact made a strange request of Mr. X. There had been a report that Oswald had met a Cuban couple in Mexico. "You have a cousin working for Cuban intelligence in Mexico," the CIA agent said. "Why don't you just ask him, saying we'll bribe him, if he said it was really him that Oswald met."

It isn't clear from the confidential transcripts why the CIA would want to fabricate this evidence. Perhaps the CIA could have sought to tie Kennedy's killer to the Castro government.

In any event, the CIA agent called off the scheme, and Mr. X "never did talk to his cousin," according to a summary of the interview. It should be stressed that the interview in no way implicates the CIA in the Kennedy killing.

The mystery witness first met his CIA contact in Havana before the United States broke off relations with Cuba. Mr. X had helped to organize a group of bank accountants, who embezzled funds from the Castro regime to finance anti-Castro causes.

The agent, who used the name Morris Bishop, recruited Mr. X to plan an attempt on Castro's life. The plotters planned to fire a bazooka from a nearby apartment while Castro was delivering one of his marathon speeches

The plot was discovered by Castro's police, and Mr. X escaped to Miami. He continued for a dozen more years to work with Bishop in the anti-Castro underground.

During Castro's 1971 visit to Chile, Mr. X tried again to knock him off. The plotters included a Venezuelan security agent, named Luis Posada Carriles, who was supposed to provide forged documents laying the blame on the Soviets. This plot, too, fell through.

Only a few weeks ago, the same Posada was indicted in Venezuela on murder charges in connection with the crash of a Cuban jetliner.

Mr. X said he worked for the CIA until 1973 for expenses. When the relationship was terminated in 1973, he said, Morris Bishop paid him a lump $253,000 in cash for past services.

Callgirl Trade—Women who take up the world's oldest profession, like most other career seekers who want to get ahead in life, are looking for "higher income and an independent, exciting lifestyle."

These are the "major motivating factors" that lead women into prostitution. So concludes a scholarly study of callgirls and streetwalkers, which has just been completed at the taxpayers' expense.

Two distinguished researchers from the University of Washington, Dr. Jennifer James and Jane Meyerding, were assigned to find out why women become prostitutes. Their findings will be published shortly in a 32-page document, which has been bootlegged to us before it goes to press.

Not only do women become prostitutes for the same underlying motives that "some people become lawyers," according to the learned ladies from Seattle, but the profession requires little schooling.

For the pay, there are "virtually no other occupations available" to women of modest skills, the researchers note. They conclude that prostitution will flourish as long as there is "a consumer demand." As they put it, "Economics is the pervasive theme of prostitution."

The study also dispels old wives' tale about "fallen women," who sell sex because they hate men or have abnormal sex drives or are forced into the business by "the coercion of brutal pimps."

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